

Maesteg Urban District Council.

❖ Medical Officer's Report ❖

FOR THE YEAR 1896.

WYNDHAM RANDALL,

Medical Officer of Health.

BRIDGEND :

Printed at the "Glamorgan Gazette" Offices.

1897.

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The Maesteg Urban District Council.

To the Chairman and Members of the Maesteg Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year 1896, with the usual tables of vital statistics.

The District comprises an area of 6,709 acres, the density of population being 1·63 persons per acre.

The Population of the District has been estimated at 11,000, since workmen at the Caerau and Coegnant Collieries have resumed work, and it is on this estimate that the statistical returns have been constructed.

BIRTHS.

The Births registered during the year were 434; of these 223 were males, and 211 females.

The Birth-rate for the District was 39·4 per 1,000 persons living, as compared with 29·7, the rate of England and Wales. Table 1 shows the population, the births, deaths, and excess of births over deaths in 1895 and 1896.

THE MAESTEG URBAN DISTRICT.

Area in acres, 6709.	Density, 1·6.
1891.	1896.
Population, 9,417	11,000 (estimated).

Birth-rate, 39·4; death-rate, 18·8; zymotic death-rate, 1·5; infant death-rate, 168·2; phthisis death-rate, 1; respiratory death-rate, 4·3.

The deaths at all ages were :—

Under one year of age	73
One year and under five years	27
Five years and under fifteen years	10
Fifteen years and under twenty-five years	10
Twenty-five and under sixty-five years...	49
Sixty-five years and upwards	38
	207

TABLE I.

Year.	Population.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Births.	Excess of Deaths.
1895	10,500	458	270	188	Nil.
1896	11,000	434	207	127	„

Table II. shows the comparisons of births and deaths in the district in 1895 and 1896.

TABLE II.

Year.	Births.	Birth rate per 1000	Deaths.	Death rate per 1000	Zymotic Death rate.	Deaths under 1 year.	
						Maesteg.	England and Wales.
1895	458	43·6	270	25·7	1·5	220·5	161
1896	434	39·4	207	18·8	1·5	168·2	148
Mean	446	41·5	238·5	22·2	1·5	194·3	154·5

DEATHS.

During the year 1896, 207 deaths were registered in the district, of these 108 were males and 99 were females.

The excess of births over deaths being 127. The death rate was equal to 18·8 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 25·7 in 1895.

The rate in England and Wales in 1896 was 17·1.

The deaths from the chief zymotic diseases during the year were 17, the death-rate per 1,000 persons living was 1·5, as compared with 1·5 in 1895. The rate in England and Wales being 2·18 in 1896.

The number of deaths from injuries, registered in the district during the year were 11.

Table III shows the chief causes of death amongst Infants under one year of age.

TABLE III.

Causes of Deaths.	Deaths under one year.
Scarlet Fever	1
Whooping Cough	2
Diarrhoea	1
Tubercular Meningitis	4
Tuberculosis	5
Premature Births	10
Diseases of the Digestive System	6
„ „ Nervous System	23
„ „ Respiratory System	11
Ill-defined Causes, &c.	9
Violence	1
Total	73

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The 207 deaths from all causes included :—

5	attributed to	Scarlet Fever.
1	„	Enteric Fever.
1	„	Continued Fever
3	„	Whooping Cough.
3	„	Diarrhoea.

Table of Deaths during the Year 1886, in the MAESTEG URBAN DISTRICT, classified according to Diseases,
Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these statistics.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.						MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.												
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwds.	Scarlatina.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Continued Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	TOTAL.
NORTH WARD	63	28	7	2	2	11	13	2	3	2	.....	.....	.....	9	.....	.....	.....	19	35
EAST WARD	63	19	10	4	4	14	12	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	8	4	1	2	11	28
WEST WARD	81	26	11	3	3	21	17	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	9	5	.....	5	11	33
MAESTEG URBAN	207	73	27	10	10	49	38	5	.....	1	3	2	.....	23	6	2	1	68	102
								5 upwds	1	1	.....	1	11	30	16	3	10	62	105

Area and Population of the District or Division to which this Return relates.

Area in acres, 6769. Population (1891), 9,417. Population (estimated to middle of 1896), 11,000.

Death Rate. { General, 18·81 per 1,000 Population, estimated to middle of 1896.
 { Infant (under one year of age), 168·20 per 1,000 Births Registered.

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness,
Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1896, in the MAESTEG URBAN DISTRICT, classified
according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAME OF LOCALITY.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.			NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.	
	Census 1891,	Estimated to middle of 1896.	Registered Births	Scarlatina.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.
NORTH WARD .....	..	3,500	152	Under 5... 10 5 upwards 12	..... 1
EAST WARD .....	..	3,425	126	Under 5.. 14 5 upwards 16	..... 1
WEST WARD .....	..	4,075	156	Under 5.. 20 5 upwards 21	.....
MAESTEG URBAN... ..	9,417	11,000	434	Under 5... 40 5 upwards 53	..... 1

“Notification of Infectious Disease” has been compulsory in the district since April, 1893. There is no Isolation Hospital.

Table IV. shows the number of deaths registered in each Ward during the year.

TABLE IV.

Wards.	Zymotic Diseases.	Parasitic Diseases.	Dietetic Diseases.	Constitutional Diseases.	Developmental Diseases.	Local Diseases.	Violence.	Ill-defined, &c.	Total.	Death rate per 1000.
Northern	8	..	3	6	10	32	2	2	63	18.0
Eastern	2	..	3	15	2	33	5	3	63	18.3
Western	7	..	2	12	6	41	4	9	81	19.8
District	17	..	8	33	18	106	11	14	207	18.8

During the year 94 cases of infectious diseases were reported to me by Medical Practitioners under the Provisions of the Infectious Diseases Notification Act.

TABLE V.

Shows the number of cases reported under the Notification Act, and the deaths during each month of the year 1896 :—

MONTHS.	Scarlet Fever.		Enteric Fever.		Totals.	
	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.
January ...	1	22	1	1	2	23
February ...		9				9
March		5				5
April.....		5				5
May		2				2
June		8				8
July		3				3
August		9				9
September...	2	7			2	7
October		7				7
November...	2	13			2	13
December...		3				3
Year 1896...	5	93	1	1	6	94

In addition to the above there was 1 death from continued fever in March; 1 death from whooping cough in January, and 2 in December; 2 deaths from diarrhoea in July, and 1 in September.

TABLE VI.

Shows the distribution of infectious diseases and the deaths in each Ward:—

WARDS.	Scarlet Fever.		Enteric Fever.		Con- tinued Fever.		Whoop'g Cough.	
	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.
Northern	2	22					3	
Eastern	1	30	1	1				
Western	2	41			1			
Totals	5	93	1	1	1		3	

In addition to this were the 3 deaths from diarrhoea: 2 in the North Ward, and 1 in the West Ward.

SCARLET FEVER.

Five deaths from scarlet fever were registered, 4 deaths being recorded in 1895, and 3 in 1894.

The number of cases notified were 93, as compared with 258 in 1895, and 46 in 1894. In 1894 the Notification Act had only been adopted in April.

The distribution of the deaths and cases in the district as to the period of the year, and as to locality, will be seen on Tables V. and VI.

On an outbreak of scarlet fever being notified, the masters of schools in the locality were communicated with, and directed not to admit any members of the infected households for a period of two months.

The parents were advised as to strict isolation for two months, and as to disinfection of persons and clothing, but such precautions were comparatively useless. This, I trust, will be remedied when removal to an isolation hospital can be carried out.

ENTERIC FEVER.

One death was registered from Enteric Fever, as compared with two in 1895. This one case was notified as compared with three in 1895 and ten in 1894.

Instructions were given as to disinfection of the motions and urine.

The premises were inspected, but no serious sanitary defects were discovered.

CONTINUED FEVER.

One death from Continued Fever, as compared with no death in 1895.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

There were three deaths from Whooping Cough. As this disease is not notified, I have no returns of the number of cases.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

Water Supply :—All houses in the district, except about 30 at Blaen Caerau, now have water laid on. A loan has been applied for to supply these. This is an improvement which will, without doubt, conduce to the health of the inhabitants.

Three samples of water were taken for analysis and were found satisfactory. But I would point out that freedom from pollution, and from liability to pollution, of the immediate surroundings and origin of a water supply is as important in estimating the purity of water as is chemical analysis.

FOOD SUPPLY.

Milk :—Some lay great stress on the value of chemical analysis with regard to milk. For this purpose elaborate and costly Bacteriological and Chemical Laboratories are required. The construction and maintenance of which it is more fitting should be carried out by some Central Authority than by District Councils. But, as in the case of water, the origin, distribution, and storage of this commodity is of the greatest practical importance ; and the adoption of "The Dairies, Cow-sheds and Milk-shops Order, 1879," for the regulation of the sanitary state of Dairies and Cowsheds, as to provision for the lighting, and the ventilation, including air-space, and the cleansing, drainage and water supply, with precautions against the contamination of milk with infectious disease, would be of more practical utility than chemical analysis.

Slaughter Houses :—Private and unsatisfactory. A public Slaughter-house would be very desirable, and tend to improvement of the meat supply.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

Two have been closed. There only remains the Model Lodging-house, which is said not to be used for the lodging of tramps, but of working-men. This, I contend, should be registered so as to permit of periodical inspection.

A common lodging-house may be described as a dwelling in which persons of the poorer class are received for short periods, and though strangers to one another, are allowed to inhabit one common room. Strangers, not being members of one family or household.

The period of letting is considered unimportant for the definition of a common lodging-house.

The above dwelling, I maintain, comes within this definition.

Manure heaps and pig-styes exist too near dwellings and roads.

The keeping of pigs at the required distances, only, from dwellings, should be enforced.

A Sewerage Scheme for the disposal of sewage is still an urgent want in Maesteg.

STREETS.

Many of these have never been properly made, viz. :—Brown Street, Grove Street, John Street, Temple Street, and Union Street.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

Many houses unfit for occupation, and so reported, are still occupied. Among these are :—

2, 3, Garnllwyd Cottages ; Llynfi-court.

14, Temple Street—an old, low, dark, damp, under-ground room, used as bed and living room. Embedded, and without through ventilation.

91, 92, 93, Bethania Street.—Nothing has been done to provide through ventilation. Drains and privies still defective. Back-yards unpaved and damp.

97, Bethania Street, is in a most dangerous condition. The walls are dilapidated, cracked and bulging, the chimney fallen down. No through ventilation. This cottage is unoccupied at the time of writing.

LIST OF PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT FROM JANUARY 1st, 1896, TO 31st DECEMBER, 1896.

At a cost of £21 5s, building of boundary wall in Bridgend Road.

At a cost of £225 12s, the laying of 800 yards of kerbing and channeling in various parts of the district.

At the cost of £32 2s, the construction of 270 yards of 9in. sewer at the back of Alma Road.

At the cost of £32 11s 6d, the construction of 240 yards of 9in. sewer at the back of Station Street.

At the cost of £207 10s, the laying of 700 yards of 6in. cast iron water mains from Blaen-Llynvi to source of river Llynvi.

At the cost of £150 1s 6d, the widening and lifting of Bridgend Road at the Oddfellows Rest.

At the cost of £570 10s, laying on a water supply to 2,000 houses from the Council's water mains.

At the cost of £120, the provision of fire appliances, and the formation of a fire brigade.

The construction of 9in. storm water drains in Caerau Road.

LIST OF PRIVATE IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT FROM JANUARY, 1896, TO DECEMBER, 1896.

Improving the defects of No. 4, Alma Road, by repairing the privy, re-erecting side walls, roof, cleaning out cesspit.

Improving the defects of Nos. 71 to 83, Garth Road, by renewing pans and house sinks; also cleaning out the choked closet drains and house drains.

Improving the defects of 20, Llwydarth Road, by paving back-yard, fixing pan and syphon to closet, and trapped sinks to house.

Improving the defects of 11, Garth Road by fixing pan and syphon to closet, and fixing house sinks.

Abating the nuisance at Nos. 4, 5, 6, and 7, Crown Row, by taking up choked drains, clearing out same and re-laying.

Improving the defects of 12, Garth Road, by fixing pan and syphon to the closet, fixing house sinks, and laying a 4in. drain to sewer.

Improving the defects of No. 4, Station Street, by fixing trapped sinks, with paving around same.

Abating the nuisance at No. 3, Station Street, by clearing out the drains and trapped sinks, and relaying.

Improving the defects of slaughter-house at the back of Commercial Street by lime-washing the walls, and fixing pan and syphon to the closet.

Abating the nuisance at a slaughter-house in Picton Street by lime-washing and cleaning the lair, and also the cesspool at the back.

Improving the state of the houses Nos. 34 and 35, Tonna Road, by making them fit for human habitation.

Improving the defects of 41, 42, and 45, Metcalfe Street, by fixing trapped sinks, and repairing the roofs and seats of the privies.

Improving the defects of Coytrahene Arms by discontinuing using the urinal at the back, and taking up the drains under same.

Improving the defects of Nos. 7, 8, 9, and 10, Bridgend Road, by fixing pans and syphons to the closets, trapped sinks to the houses, and connecting them to the 9in. sewer in front.

Improving the defects of No. 5, Ivor Street, by fixing a pan and syphon to the closet, trapped sinks to the houses, and connecting them to sewer in the back road.

Improving the defects of No. 10, Ivor Street, by fixing a pan and syphon to the closet, trapped sinks to the house, and connecting them to sewer in the back road.

Improving the defects of No. 8, Ivor Street, by fixing a pan and syphon to the closet, trapped sinks to the house, and connecting them to sewer in back road.

Improving the defects of No. 4, Ivor Street, by fixing a pan and syphon to the closet, trapped sinks to the house, and connecting them to the sewer in the back road.

Improving the defects of No. 3, Ivor Street, by fixing a pan and syphon to the closet, trapped sinks to the house, and connecting them to the sewer in the back road.

Improving the defects of 13 and 14, Ivor Street, by fixing pans and syphons to the closets, trapped sinks to the house, and connecting them to the sewers in the back road.

Improving the defects of 12, Ivor Street, by fixing a pan and syphon to the closet, trapped sinks to the house, and connecting them to the sewers in the back road.

Improving the defects of No. 9, Ivor Street, by fixing a pan and syphon to the closet, trapped sinks to the house, and connecting them to the sewers in the back road.

Improving the state of the houses Nos. 17, 20, 21, and 22, Rock Street, by making them fit for human habitation.

Abating the nuisance at 97, Bethania Street by clearing and flushing the choked drains.

Abating the nuisance at 94, Bethania Street by clearing and flushing the choked drains.

Improving the defects of 106, 107, and 108, Bethania Street by rebuilding privies at upper end of 106 and connecting to the 9in. sewer in the road.

Improving the defects of 92, 93, 94, 95 and 96, Garth Road by fixing pans and syphons to the closets, and down pipes to front of houses and repairing the gutter.

Improving the defects of 83, Garth Road, by fixing pan and syphon to the closet, trapped sinks to the house and connecting to the 9in. sewer at the back.

Improving the defects of 45, 46 and 48, Castle Street by taking up, cleansing, and re-laying the drains to the closets of 45 and 46, Castle Street, and a new closet with a pan and syphon for 48, Castle Street.

Improving the state of the houses 48 and 49, Castle Street by repairing the roof and shutes,

REQUIREMENTS.

1. A system of sewerage for the whole district.
2. The closure or repair of houses unfit for occupation.
3. The paving, channelling, etc. of many roads and streets, public and private.
4. The provision of a public abattoir.
5. The scavenging by the Council of back areas and privies.
6. The enforcement of the bye-laws as to pig-styes, their cleansing and distance from dwellings.
7. The provision of an Isolation Hospital ambulance and disinfecting apparatus.
8. Greater promptitude in the removal of manure, house refuse, and other nuisances should be insisted upon.
9. Regulations should be framed under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops Order, and bye-laws under section 23 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, as to the proper flushing of W.C.'s and the paving of back yards, courts, etc.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

WYNDHAM RANDALL,

Medical Officer of Health.

BRIDGEND,

12th April, 1897.

TABLE C., 1896.

Supplementary Table for Annual Reports.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF MAESTEG.

Medical Officer of Health: WYNDHAM RANDALL.

Date of First Appointment: 21st May, 1894.

Date of Last Appointment: 21st May, 1896.

Present Salary: £40.

Term of Appointment: Annual.

Rateable Value of District for General District Rate: £26,000.

Special Reports presented during 1895: None.

WATER SUPPLY.

Any extension or change in 1896?—A new scheme constructed.

Portions of District inadequately supplied?—Blaen Caerau, for which a loan has been applied for.

Cases of Lead Poisoning in 1896?—None.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Extensions or improvements during 1896?—The construction of 510 yards of 9-in. sewer.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

Are the Privy Middens, &c., cleansed by Sanitary Staff, by Contractors, or by Tenants?—By Tenants.

Is the present arrangement satisfactory?—A drainage scheme required.

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Any change as to Bye-laws, or as to Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order?—No.

REGULATED BUILDINGS, TRADES, &C.

	No.	Are they inspected, and if so, by whom?	General Conditions.	Legal proceedings (if any).
Common Lodging-houses	...	...	...
Houses let in Lodgings	...	...	...
Canal Boats	...	Inspector of Nuisances	...	
Slaughter Houses	8		Improving	
Bakehouses	21		Fairly Good	
Dairies	12		"	
Cowsheds	32		"	
Milkshops	4	"	"	
Offensive Trades	..	...	...
(Please specify nature)				

DEATH RETURNS.

What corrections (if any) are made for non-residents dying within the district?—None.

Are any returns obtained of deaths of residents occurring in public institutions (Workhouses, Hospitals, &c.) outside the District?—No.

DEATHS.

Please state number of each sex.—Males, 108. Females, 99.

BIRTHS.

Please state number of each sex.—Males, 223. Females, 211.

HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No Infectious Diseases Hospital.

SUGGESTED TABLE FOR

District ...	Maesteg Urban	DWELLING HOUSES AND SCHOOLS.				Lodging Houses	Dairies and Milkshops	Cowsheds	Bakehouses	Slaughter Houses	Ashpits and Privies.	Canal Boats	Deposits of Refuse and Manure	HOUSE DRAINAGE.			
		Foul Conditions	Structural Defects	Overcrowding	Unfit for Habitation									Water Closets	Defective Traps	No Disconnection	Other Faults.
Population ...	11,000																
Inspector ..	Joseph Humphreys ...																
	Inspections made ..	15	12			20	3	4	26	10			15	12	12		
	Informal Notices served by Inspector...	17	10	2		3			6	8			9		5		
	Legal Notices served by Authority ...																
	Nuisances abated ...	17	10	2		3			6	8			9		5		

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

- (1) Notification Act. Adopted when?—April, 1895. .
- (2) Prevention Act. „ „ —Not adopted.
- (3) Public Health Acts Amendment Act. Adopted when?—Not adopted.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

Closets—Approximate number of each kind in the District : W.C., 500
Trough C., 450 ; Slop C. (waste water C.), 700 ; Pail, Pan, or Tub C.,
200 ; Privy Middens, covered, 350.

LOANS (if any) sanctioned by L.G. Board during year?—None.

STATE what action has been taken with regard to the following matters :—

Prosecutions—None.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

FOOD SUPPLY AND WATER						PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.	
Water Supply	Pigstyes	Animals improperly kept	Offensive Trades	Smoke Nuisances	Other Nuisances	Totals	Seizures of unwholesome food
							Samples of food taken for analysis
							Samples of food found adulterated
							Samples of water taken for analysis
							Samples of water condemned as unfit for use
							Lots of infected bedding stored or destroyed
							Houses disinfected after infectious disease
							Schools disinfected after infectious disease
							Prosecutions for not notifying existence of infectious disease
							Convictions for not notifying existence of infectious disease
							Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things
							Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things

W. WILLIAMS,

County Medical Officer.

